

Harriers in state meet, eyeing ACCs next week

By SKIP FOREMAN
Staff Writer

Coach Bill Lam and his Carolina cross country team are looking forward to the ACC Championship meet set for Chapel Hill next weekend. The team may even tend to overlook the State Championships this weekend on the N.C. State course. But its concentration is not taken totally by the ACC meet.

"Honestly, I really don't care how we do," Lam said, seeming indifferent to the impending meet. But he did qualify his meaning.

"That doesn't mean that I wanna lose or that I don't care what happens, but that in setting my preferences and goals, I'd rather come in second or third here and win the ACC."

The preceding all goes back to what Lam said he believes was his team's contribution to the winning of the Carmichael Cup for UNC. The track organizations on campus had to finish well to get high points for the cup. Cross country surprised many people and finished second last year and was an instrumental point-maker in finally capturing the cup for Carolina. In addition, a good finish at the ACC meet will assure Carolina of some representation at the District III meet in Greenville, S.C., as well as the NCAA Championships.

"At this point, we're looking at the ACC meet, and we're gonna continue to work hard through this week. We might be tired, and we may not look as good in the state meet as we've looked up to this point, but I feel like it's necessary to get the work in this week so we can let it up, and we will peak for the ACC meet," Lam said.

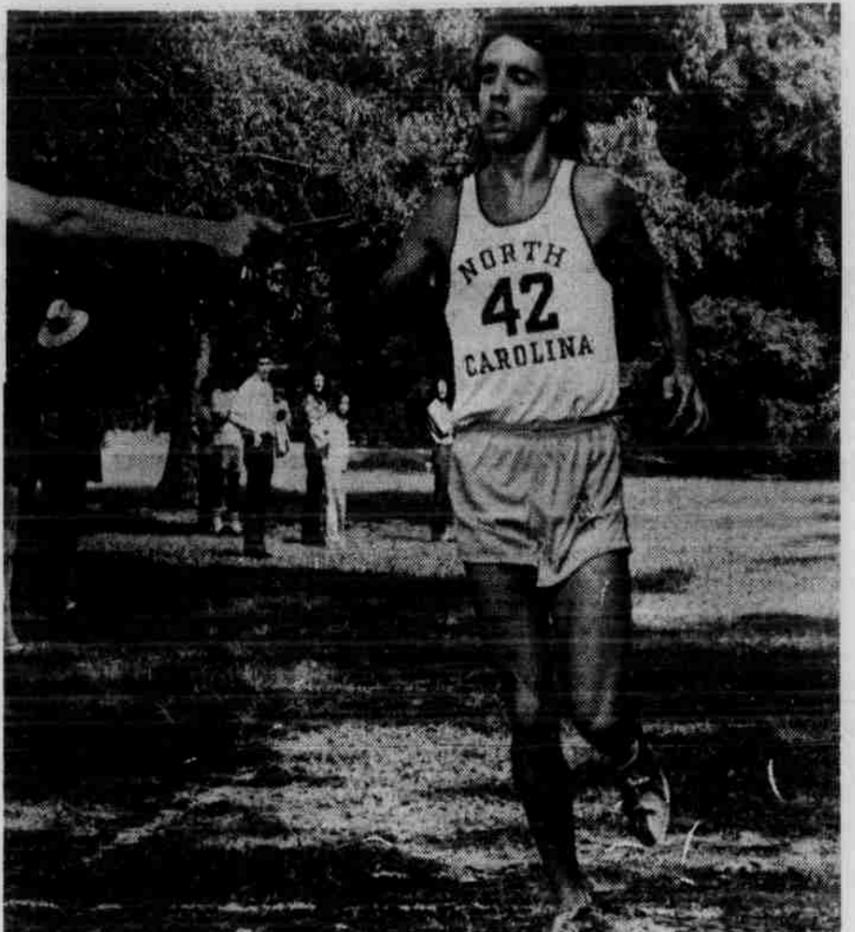
Carolina will be facing some of the same teams it has faced during the year, mainly the big Four competition, and smaller teams such as Campbell, Appalachian State and East Carolina. The meet will be held on State's new 10,000 meter course, about a half-mile longer than the normal distance Carolina runners have been used to. The team traveled to Raleigh Wednesday to take a look at the new track. Lam said the newness of the course would not make much difference in his team's performance, nor would the extra distance have a bearing on the final outcome.

Though Carolina will be paced by its one-two punch of Ralph King and Gary Hofstetter, the next five runners for the Heels hold the key as to whether the team comes in first, second or whatever. This week, injuries may not play as big a factor as Lam said he thought they might have in the Duke meet last weekend.

UNC's injury situation has improved greatly over last week's pre-meet troubles. Doug Slack has come back, and Jimmy Cooper has begun workouts once again. Though not at full strength against Duke, Slack managed fourth place on Duke's sloppy track last Saturday.

"Doug Slack has been our most consistent runner. We need to have him well and running for us to do well as a team," Lam said. Slack is part of the three-four-five connection which keeps Carolina in contention. He is aided by Mark Thompson and Jimmy Cooper. Lam said he sees Thompson's performance as improving.

"Mark is continually improving, and I'm real pleased with his performance. At this time Jimmy Cooper is still hurt, and he's going to be a big factor as to whether we win the conference or not."



Carolina's top distance man Ralph King and No. 2 runner Gary Hofstetter will lead the Tar Heels into the N.C. State Championships Saturday in Raleigh. UNC is gearing itself for the ACC meet next weekend. Photo by Charles Hardy.

Women's tennis works hard preparing for Furman meet

Before the UNC women's tennis team entered its 10-day stretch of tough matches that ended last Saturday, it probably thought it would have a few days off afterwards.

However, the Tar Heels received an unwanted break a week early because of a three-day rain, and it was a major factor in their 7-2 loss to Yale Saturday.

Carolina had been rolling along undefeated before then and played probably its best match of the season against Duke the day before the rain began. But the players lost much of their sharpness during the layoff and did not have time to regain it before meeting Yale.

Consequently, there was no break this week. Tar Heel Coach Kitty Harrison had her squad on the courts every day prior to

leaving Thursday for a two-day tri-meet at Furman, which begins today.

The Tar Heels, 5-1 this fall, are not expected to have any trouble in their three matches at Furman ever if they aren't as sharp as they were before the rain. Auburn, Georgia and the Mississippi University for Women (MVW) — three teams they handily defeated in the same event last year.

Harrison said before they left that she thought the team was back to where it was before the rain.

In the matches last year, Carolina defeated both Georgia and Auburn by 8-1 scores, and it beat MVW 7-2. In each match, the Tar Heels played without three of their regular starters — Black, Suzanne Bowron and Rebecca Garcia.

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